

**Immunization Branch
Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Group
Adult/Adolescent Immunization (AAI) Coordinator Update
March 13, 2007**

Immunization Branch – Vision and Mission

Vision: A Texas Free of Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Mission: To provide leadership to increase vaccine coverage levels and reduces the burden of vaccine preventable diseases.

Immunization Branch – Strategic Plan (Rev 10 06)

Goal 3: Improve adolescent immunization levels

Goal 4: Improve adult immunization levels

Immunization Branch - Texas 2007 Continuation Immunization Grant Application; January 1 through December 31, 2007

Proposed Objectives and Activities for the 2007 Budget Period – Program Components

Adolescent Immunization – Priorities:

- a. Incorporate adolescent vaccination into existing program activities when possible.
- b. Evaluate uptake of new vaccines recommended for adolescents through existing resources (e.g., immunization information systems, AFIX Assessments, and population-based surveys).
- c. Collaborate with professional societies to promote adolescent vaccination in the primary care setting.
- d. Increase coverage of existing and new vaccines in adolescents who have fewer opportunities for receiving health care by developing a plan for working with alternative health care settings (e.g., school-based health centers, juvenile detention centers, and STD clinics).

Adult Immunization – Priorities:

- a. Focus on partnerships to promote the implementation of interventions that have been shown to increase immunization rates.
- b. Where feasible, establish and evaluate efforts to vaccinate high-risk adults within existing state and local prevention programs (e.g., STD, HIV/AIDS, drug abuse intervention, corrections health programs).
- c. Help assure all health care workers are aware of the need to be immune to hepatitis B, varicella, measles, mumps, rubella, and pertusis. Information about available vaccines and their recommendations should be provided to all health care workers.

Current Vision and Priorities:

- a. This position should be a clearing house for any and all AAI matters (e.g., activities, educational efforts, outreach, provider and patient recruitment).
- b. Identify and build collaborative relationships with TISWG, regional managers, and all other possible stakeholders. (Input needed by regional staff)
- c. Develop draft business plan no later than June 1, 2007
- d. Coordinate and develop training, goals, and expectations for regional AAI coordinators (input needed by regional managers).
- e. Develop recruitment and training materials for OB, GYN, Adolescent Medicine providers, Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistants (and their staff).
- f. Develop a marketing plan that will target adolescent and adult patients.

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Adult/Adolescent Immunization (AAI) Coordinator

John Gemar comes to the Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Group, Immunization Branch at DSHS after more than 24 years of military service in the United States Air Force. John spent 20 years working in clinical, academic, management, and consultant roles with childhood and adult immunizations. His experience includes hands-on patient care and administration of routine childhood/adult immunizations as well as world-wide travel vaccinations required by U.S. military personnel. John spent five years at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. as an instructor at the Tri-Service Immunization/Allergy Specialty Course training medics, corpsmen, nurses, and physicians. During his stay in Washington, he also collaborated with the CDC, World Health Organization, and U.S. Department of State on travel vaccines for military personnel, their family members, and the diplomatic corps. He is an accomplished manager and, as such, was the enlisted consultant for Immunization/Allergy matters to the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General. He developed and aided in the implementation of Department of Defense immunization and disaster plans. John's last duty in the military was that of patient advocate for the second largest U.S. Air Force Medical Center and a population of more than 64,000 patients. He was hired by DSHS in January 2006 and worked as a consultant in the Texas Vaccines for Children office for a year before being selected to be the Adult/Adolescent Immunization Coordinator for the State of Texas. He lives in Austin with his wife Charlotte, and their two K-9 companions. They are lucky to live within a block of their daughter, her husband, and three grandchildren.